

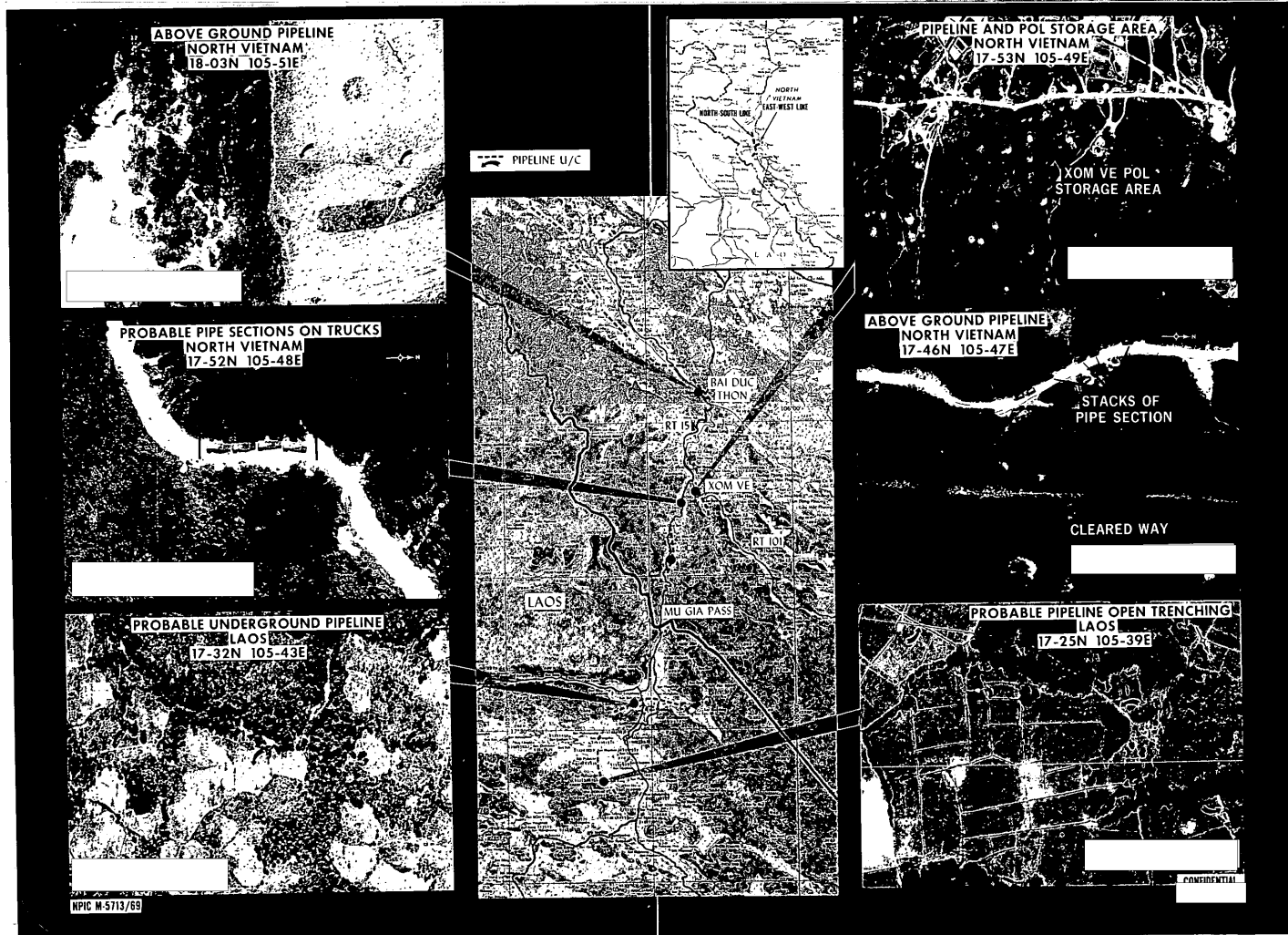
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LAOS-NORTH VIETNAM POL PIPELINE CONNECTION U/C
MU GIA PASS AREA

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PETROLEUM PIPELINE UNDER CONSTRUCTION
MU GIA PASS AREA
LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE FIRST IDENTIFICATION OF A PROBABLE PETROLEUM PIPELINE IN LAOS AND THE SOUTHWARD EXTENSION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH PIPELINE IN NORTH VIETNAM.

2. LOCATION:

MU GIA PASS AREA OF LAOS AND NORTH VIETNAM.

3. BACKGROUND:

THE NORTH-SOUTH PETROLEUM PIPELINE WAS INITIALLY IDENTIFIED IN WHEN 18.7 NM OF PIPE EXTENDING BETWEEN THE NGHIA DONG PETROLEUM STORAGE AREA AND THE LANG LUYEN PETROLEUM STORAGE AREA WAS OBSERVED. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE LINE WAS EXTENDED TO THE PHU YEN STORAGE AREA TO THE NORTH AND A SOUTHWEST EXTENSION WAS BEGUN OFF OF THE MAIN LINE APPROXIMATELY FOUR NM ABOVE THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS. MORE RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE PIPE SYSTEM INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EAST-WEST PIPELINE EXTENDING WEST FROM THE REACTIVATED VINH PETROLEUM PRODUCTS STORAGE AREA AND APPARENTLY CONNECTING WITH THE NORTH-SOUTH PIPELINE IN THE VICINITY OF THE SONG CA CROSSING. (THIS CONNECTION AND THE WESTERN HALF OF THE EAST-WEST LINE HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED BY PHOTOGRAPHY.) THE SOUTHWEST EXTENSION OF THE

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NORTH-SOUTH LINE HAS CONTINUED DOWN THE ROUTE 15/NGAN SAU (STREAM) AT AN INCREASED RATE SINCE EARLY [REDACTED] A CONTINUOUS LINE HAD PROBABLY BEEN ESTABLISHED AS FAR SOUTH AS BAI DUC THON (1802N 10552E), ALTHOUGH SHORT SEGMENTS OF THE PIPELINE HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED DUE TO PHOTOGRAPHIC QUALITY.

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4. MISSION READOUT:

PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED] REVEALS THE FIRST INDICATION OF A PROBABLE PETROLEUM PIPELINE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN LAOS. AT PRESENT, APPROXIMATELY 12 NM OF INTERMITTENT PROBABLE PIPELINE OR ALIGNMENT CLEARANCE HAS BEEN OBSERVED, THE NORTHERNMOST VISIBLE PORTION OF WHICH IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 8 NM SOUTH OF MU GIA PASS.

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DEPICTED ON THE GRAPHIC IS A PORTION OF A PROBABLE UNDERGROUND PIPELINE AND A PORTION OF PIPELINE OPEN TRENCHING IN NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED] REVEALS FOUR INTERMITTENT SEGMENTS OF PIPELINE AND PROBABLE ALIGNMENT CLEARING BETWEEN BAI DUC THON AND MU GIA PASS, GENERALLY PARALLELING AND EAST OF ROUTE 15 (SEE MAP). GAPS IN THE PRESENT ALIGNMENT OF THIS SECTION OF THE LINE ARE CAUSED BY INDEPENDENT SEGMENTAL CONSTRUCTION OR ALIGNMENT OBSCURED BY DENSE VEGETATION. A PORTION OF ONE OF THESE SEGMENTS SHOWING THE ABOVE GROUND PIPELINE PHOTOGRAPHED ON [REDACTED] IS DEPICTED ON THE GRAPHIC. DEVIATION FROM THE ROUTE 15 ALIGNMENT IS MOST NOTICEABLE IN THE VICINITY OF THE ROUTE 15/101 JUNCTION WHERE THE PIPELINE IS BEING

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CONSTRUCTED TO THE EAST PROBABLY TO SERVICE SEVERAL NEW PETROLEUM STORAGE AREAS NEAR THE WESTERN TERMINUS OF ROUTE 101 (SEE GRAPHIC).

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SOUTHBOUND CARGO TRUCKS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED CARRYING PROBABLE PIPE SECTIONS ON ROUTE 15. DEPICTED ON THE GRAPHIC ARE FOUR TRUCKS OBSERVED ON PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED] NINE NM NORTH OF THE LAOTIAN BORDER.

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ON PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED] FOUR STACKS OF PROBABLE PIPE SECTIONS WERE OBSERVED ON THE SIDE OF ROUTE 15. A SHORT SEGMENT OF PIPELINE HAS BEEN EMPLACED IN A PROBABLE ALIGNMENT CLEARING PARALLEL TO ROUTE 15 IN THE SAME AREA (DEPICTED ON GRAPHIC).

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5. REMARKS:

FROM THE ALIGNMENT OF THE EXTENSION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH PETROLEUM PIPELINE SOUTH OF BAI DUC THON AND THE PROBABLE PIPELINE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN LAOS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE APPARENTLY INTEND TO EXTEND THIS SYSTEM INTO LAOS GENERALLY PARALLELING THE MAIN LOGISTIC NETWORK IN THE LAOS PANHANDLE.

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